





# THE CAUCASIAN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.  
BY THE CAUCASIAN PUBLISHING CO.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.  
ONE YEAR.....\$1.00  
SIX MONTHS......50  
THREE MONTHS......25

Entered in the Post Office at Raleigh, N. C., as Second Class Matter.

## A WORD TO SILVER DEMOCRATS.

Has the newspaper which you take published the base and malicious slander started by the goldbug editor of a Rocky Mount paper about my speech there on Oct. 15th? If so, has it published my reply and denial in the last issue of THE CAUCASIAN? If not then I wish to ask you to read in this issue of THE CAUCASIAN a statement of what I did and did not say backed up with affidavits by men who heard the speech. Many men are not fair and honest enough with their readers to publish both sides, but every fair-minded man wants to know both sides and then decide for himself.

## A BASE AND MALICIOUS LIE NAILED.

Last week we published a signed statement headed, "What Senator Butler said at Rocky Mount," giving the lie to the malicious misrepresentation of our speech, and stating what we did say. We reproduce below the same statement this week and publish a number of affidavits from gentlemen who heard the speech testifying to the falseness of the Argonaut's report, and testifying to the correctness of our statement. These nail the lie and prove the truth.

## WHAT SENATOR BUTLER SAID AT ROCKY MOUNT.

Last week, when Senator Butler was in Raleigh, a reporter of the News and Observer showed him what a certain Rocky Mount paper reported him as saying in his speech there on October 15th and asked whether or not it was correct. Senator Butler promptly branded the report as false, not only in the words quoted, but also in the impression which that paper tried to convey as to the tenor of the speech.

The News and Observer reporter then asked him for a statement of what he did say. He promptly dictated a report of that part of his speech on the color question, which was the same that he had made in every speech. In another column of this paper we publish the interview from the News and Observer.

We republish here the garbled and doctored quotation which is as follows:

"It colored men commit outrages on the Democrats pretend to be terribly shocked in public, but when they get behind a wall they laugh until they grow fat, and all the outrages are not frequent enough they hire worthless negroes to commit them."

Now turn and read the interview on the first page and see what he did say. Thus any one can see how the speaker's meaning might be misrepresented by quoting, even correctly, one sentence, when the connection in which it was used is not given; but when the sentence is ingeniously doctored and put into language different from that used by the speaker, and besides comments made on it to try to create an impression that it was used in an entirely different connection (concerning rape cases), then the editor is guilty of the basest slander. He seeks to make it appear that the speaker said just the opposite of what he did say. Now the editor of the Rocky M. paper attempts to justify his doctored and grossly misleading quotation with the following affidavit:

We, the undersigned do hereby make affidavit that we heard the speech of Senator Butler, and that the above extract in quotation marks is in substance what he said.

(REV.) B. S. MCKENZIE,  
F. J. THORP, M. D.,  
J. D. DORRIS.

Nov. 13, 1897.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of November, 1897.

JOHN L. LAMARSON,  
Notary Public.

It will be noticed that the men making this affidavit are careful not to say that Senator Butler used the words which the Rocky Mount paper puts into his mouth, for they could not do so without perjuring themselves. They are also careful not to endorse the claim of that paper that the language was used in connection with rape cases, which is a base and malicious falsehood. In the doctored quotation put in the words "agents of shynock and the monopolies" in the place of the word "Democrats" and remove the charge that this language was used in connection with rape cases and give the connection in which it was used and then we might let the remainder of the language stand (though they are not the words he used) and no one could object to the language but the hired agents of the gold syndicate and the corporations.

It is an old saying that the Devil can quote scripture to prove his contention. That is he can quote separate paragraphs, and quote them correctly, and prove his case if the connection in which the quotation is used is omitted. But if the Devil is allowed to change the wording and give "in substance" in his own language, any selected paragraph from the Scriptures, he can of course make his lie look more like the truth. He can prove that white is black; that there is no God and that the Devil reigns over the true Heaven. This is exactly what has been done by the Rocky Mount editor in this case, and we will now put his own witnesses, the very men who signed the affidavit, on the stand to prove it. Every lawyer and every other person who has watched court proceedings have often seen two good men, both of whom saw or heard the same thing, swear to contradictory statements about the facts. If the jury should believe one, the verdict would be one way; if they should believe the other, the verdict would be the opposite. But when the lawyers come to cross examine the witnesses it is often found that one or both modify their statements so that they practically

agree. Therefore testimony brought out on cross examination is, as a rule, nearer the truth. We will now cross examine the three men who made this affidavit.

Question. Did not Senator Butler in his speech at Rocky Mount draw a sharp distinction between the two classes of men who are crying out against "negro domination"? Did he not show that the great masses of the people were not only for white supremacy, but were also against the gold standard and monopoly rule. That the People's Party occupied the same position and they were ready to join hands with all others who favored the same reforms and elect an anti-monopoly Legislature and that this would give to the State the best white man's government the State had ever seen?

Did he not say that there were certain gold and monopoly agents who were trying to keep divided the people who thought alike on the most vital questions; that they were trying to divide and conquer and elect a monopoly Legislature and that they were using the "nigger" question and appeals to race prejudice to carry out their scheme?

A. To this they must answer, yes.

Q. Was it not against these hirelings of Shynock and monopoly and no one else that Senator Butler used the epithet "negro domination"? Were they called upon to make an affidavit?

A. To this they must answer, yes.

Q. Did he use these epithets against the gold monopoly agents in connection with rape cases?

A. To this they must answer, no.

Q. And did he not in this connection use an illustration to the effect that when machine politicians and agents of monopoly have an unusually bad record to defend, as when they have put up a specially bad ticket and are planning greater robberies than usual that there was only one way for them to force the best element of the white people to again submit to their machine domination and robbery and that was for a negro to throw a brickbat into a political procession or to do something else of the kind to arouse race prejudice; and that, under these circumstances, the scoundrels who had been helping the monopolies to rob the people, (by giving us five cent cotton and charging us high freight and passenger rates at the same time and by dozens of other means) would no doubt hire some worthless negro to commit such an act if necessary to win a monopoly victory? And was this not the only connection in which such a statement was made?

A. To this they must answer, yes.

Q. Did he not, in another part of his speech, after deploring the number of rapes, also deplore the efforts of certain monopoly organs to try to make political capital of such horrible crimes, by charging that the People's Party was in some way responsible for them? Did he not refer to a number of rapes committed in other States where there were Democratic administrations and show that none had ever attempted to charge the Democrats in those States with being responsible in any way for such horrible crimes, and was this not all that he said either directly or indirectly about rapes?

A. To this they must answer, yes.

Q. Did he not tell the colored people in the audience that this was an Anglo-Saxon government and that they would always rule, and that it was best both for the blacks as well as the whites that it should be so?

A. To this they must answer, yes.

Q. Was not his whole speech an appeal for a co-operation of the large majority of voters, now divided, who oppose the gold standard and monopoly domination and robbery, to join forces in a great fight for these vital economic reforms in addition to white supremacy; and were not all of his strictures directed at these few agents of the enemy who are using the "nigger" cry to prevent such a co-operation, to sidetrack the money and monopoly question and to force a fusion of silver men and goldbugs, and who therefore were using the white supremacy cry for an insincere and dishonest purpose?

A. To this they must answer, yes.

To every one of the above questions the men who answered as we have indicated. They cannot answer otherwise. This cross examination shows how the speech was misrepresented and proves that the sentence quoted is a base and malicious perversion.

The fact is that the editorials we have been writing since Congress adjourned and the speeches we have been making since the 10th day of last August have hit in a tender spot certain "nigger" organs who are working the race prejudice racket in the interest of the gold and monopoly syndicate. They have winced under our exposure of their scheme. We have tested their sincerity in crying out for white supremacy by proposing a co-operation of all those who oppose the gold standard and the domination of our State by monopolies to elect an anti-monopoly Legislature. We have shown that such a fight would not only elect an anti-monopoly Legislature, but also give the best white man's government the State has ever seen. We have shown that this was the only way to make such a victory certain. This has exposed the insincerity of those who were raising the "nigger" cry in the interest of monopoly. They could not answer our arguments. They saw that the people were catching on to their conspiracy to sidetrack the money and monopoly questions and get a fusion of the silver men and gold bugs behind the "nigger" cry and to turn over the next Legislature to the railroads. They saw that the people were favoring the day more and more our proposition for white supremacy and an anti-monopoly Legislature. They were getting desperate, so they deliberately decided to misrepresent one of our speeches in a way to help them revive new life in their goldbug-nigger campaign. They could have just as well misrepresented our speech which was made at Aulander on the next day, or any of the other speeches which we had made before, for we made the same speech at every place. If we had made the statements at Rocky Mount which they charge we made, the fact would have been flashed over the wires before night and been in all the daily papers next morning.

We do not know personally any of

the men who signed that "in substance" affidavit; we prefer to believe that they are honorable men who are honestly mistaken, and who, when they signed the statement, did not realize the extent of the misrepresentation it carried, and who had no conception of the interpretations which the gold and negro organs would desperately strive to put on it. We do not wish to believe that they could be moved by either prejudice or malice or any other motive to make an affidavit so misleading and outrageously false. We notice that one of them is a minister and we have great respect for the cloth, therefore we would prefer to rest the matter here for the present. But in view of the enormity of the injustice done us, and in view of the political capital which the gold and negro organs are attempting to manufacture to enable them to carry out their desperate and nefarious scheme of monopoly, we are constrained to say that if they meant by their affidavit to say that the strictures which we did use were directed against any save the agents and hirelings of Shynock and monopoly, or that we used language, when taken in connection with the remainder of the speech, could in any way be construed as a charge that even the scoundrels who help monopolies rob the people, could so low as to hire negroes to commit rape, then we brand such a statement as a base, malicious and perjured falsehood. The undersigned is personally responsible for this statement.

Since the above was written for last issue we notice that the editor of that Rocky Mount paper has gotten the following additional affidavit:

We, the undersigned, do hereby make affidavit that we heard the speech of Senator Butler, and that the above extract is in substance what he said.

R. R. HICKS,  
J. D. DORRIS,  
ISAAC LEVY.

Rocky Mount, Nash Co., N. C.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of November, 1897.

JOHN L. LAMARSON,  
Notary Public.

We do not know these three men, and all we have to say in reply is that if they mean by this affidavit to say that the strictures which we did use were directed against all Democrats or against any save the agents and hirelings of Shynock and monopoly, or that we used language, when taken in connection with the remainder of the speech, could in any way be construed as a charge that even the scoundrels, who help monopolies rob the people, could stoop so low as to hire negroes to commit rape, then we brand such a statement as a base, malicious and perjured falsehood. The undersigned is personally responsible for this statement.

THE FOLLOWING AFFIDAVITS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES:

I hereby make affidavit that I was in Rocky Mount on the 15th day of October, the day when Senator Butler spoke there, and that I heard his speech; that Senator Butler said nothing in his speech which could under any proper construction be taken as a charge against Democrats or against hired negroes to commit rape. His strictures were all directed against the gold and monopoly syndicate, and he did not even charge that this class of men were mean enough to hire negroes to commit rape.

DAVID EVERETT,  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of November, 1897.

Geo. R. DIXON, J. P.

We, the undersigned, make affidavit that we heard Senator Butler speak at Rocky Mount on October 15th, and paid close attention to his speech. We have also read the extract given by the Rocky Mount Argonaut, and we brand it as a base and malicious perversion, and one that puts an entirely wrong construction upon his speech. His whole speech and argument was for the rights of the people against corporate greed, and it was listened to with the greatest interest by all who knew of many Democrats, the kind that believe in the principles of Bryan, who declared that his arguments were unanswerable.

We further make affidavit that we have read the editorial in THE CAUCASIAN headed, "What Senator Butler said at Rocky Mount," and we endorse it as a correct version of Senator Butler's remarks.

P. A. MAY, Co. Com'r.  
G. W. COLE,  
JAMES J. COLE, J. P.  
B. F. WESTRAY.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of November, 1897.

G. T. COLLEY,  
Justice of the Peace.

I also make affidavit to above.

G. T. COLLEY,  
Justice of the Peace.

Sworn to and subscribed before me.

JAMES COLE,  
Justice of the Peace.

I, the undersigned, heard Senator Butler's speech at Rocky Mount on October 15th, and hereby make affidavit that the report made by the Rocky Mount Argonaut is a malicious and perjured charge that Democrats hired negroes to commit rape. I further make affidavit that the interview which Senator Butler gave to the News and Observer, which was published in that paper on Thursday morning November 18th, and republished in THE CAUCASIAN, together with the editorial in the last issue of THE CAUCASIAN headed, "What Senator Butler said at Rocky Mount," states the exact truth.

VAN B. CARTER,  
Rep. of Nash.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of Nov. 1897.

WILLIAM G. SHARP,  
Notary Public.

I, Jno. B. Lewis, was in Rocky Mount when Senator Butler spoke there on October 15th, and heard his speech, and make affidavit that Senator Butler did not charge that Democrats hired negroes to commit rape. What he said about rapes was that some Democrats were charging that the People's party was responsible for the rapes that occurred in North Carolina and he referred to the fact that rapes were being committed in Georgia and other Southern States where the Democratic party was in power, and yet he saw no charge from Democratic sources that the Democratic administrations were responsible for the rapes that occurred in their States. What he said about the agents and hirelings of monopoly hiring negroes to make themselves offensive such as throwing rocks into Democratic processions was in a different connection altogether.

I further make affidavit that I have

read the editorials in THE CAUCASIAN headed "What Senator Butler said at Rocky Mount" and the same is a correct version as I understood it.

Jno. B. Lewis,  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of November, 1897.

Geo. R. DIXON, J. P.

I was at Rocky Mount on October 15th 1897 and heard Senator Butler's speech from beginning to end, and I do solemnly swear that he made no such remarks as charged by the Rocky Mount Argonaut that Democrats hired negroes to commit outrages; nor did he say anything that could be so construed.

His reference to Democrats hiring negroes was, in substance, as follows: That in times of great political activity and indifference on the part of the voters in that party, and when the Democrats had no record to go before the people with, some of the leaders would hire a negro to throw a rock into a Democratic procession in order to create race prejudice to enable them to get the people who thought alike on the most vital questions.

His reference to the outrages committed by negroes was, in substance, as follows: That he was very sorry that the Democratic railroad organs and the agents of monopoly and the gold standard in that party were endeavoring to create race prejudice by referring to these horrible outrages for the purpose of making political capital out of them.

The Argonaut's report as referred to above is absolutely untrue and without a shadow of foundation in fact.

W. G. LARSON,  
Member of the Board of Commissioners of Edgecombe county.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this November 29, 1897.

ED. PENNINGTON, C. S. C.

We, the undersigned, were at Rocky Mount on Oct. 15, 1897, and heard Senator Butler's speech from beginning to end, and we solemnly swear that he made no such remarks as charged by the Rocky Mount Argonaut that Democrats hired negroes to commit outrages; nor did he say anything that could be so construed. His reference to Democrats hiring negroes was, in substance, as follows:

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## "FAITHFUL TO CORPORATIONS UNTO DEATH."

Last week we published the action of the Railroad Commission in rescinding its order to reduce telephone rates. Their excuse was that they had no authority to reduce telephone charges.

We said their action was very strange to say the least. We had in mind the fact that they had twice decided that they had the power to reduce such rates and had also twice decided that telephone charges were unreasonably high. We also had in mind the plain language of the Commission law which empowers the Railroad Commission to make "just and reasonable rates of charges for the transmission of messages by any telegraph or telephone."

The fact that telephone companies usually charge by the month for single messages instead of by the single message usually does no difference. The plain meaning and intent of the law is to authorize, empower and direct the Commissioners to fix reasonable and just rates between the public and telephone, telegraph, railroad and other public corporations.

The strained effort of the Commission to dodge in the interest of a powerful monopoly is a brazen and shameless proceeding. If they had been doubtful about the meaning of the law about their authority, why did they not give the public the benefit of the doubt and let the corporations appeal to the State Supreme Court? By deciding the doubt (which they claim now exists in their minds) in favor of the corporation, they knowingly off all the power to fix telephone rates in the act, as they can't appeal.

We said their action was strange, but when we come to think of the matter it is in keeping with the record which they have made. They have made no in railroad rates though cotton has fallen from 11 cents to five cents, they and their family have ridden on all the free passes they could get. As a "sub to the whole" they did manage to reduce telegraph and telephone rates, but they have recalled the reduction before it had ever been in force an hour. This is not all, but the remainder is like unto it. Surely this commission is "faithful to corporations unto death."

The State will wait anxiously the decision of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the law under which the Governor acted in suspending two of the Commissioners and it is to be hoped that it will sustain the Governor and put better men in so important a position of trust.

## AS GLEANED IN THE NEWS.

D. R. HARRIS & Co. have many in an effort to win. Our ranks are strong here and we will surely win in 1898. We keep our heads and set our hearts on the prize which we have a great and common purpose.

What a lump of tonny rot! If he says what he means, then he means nothing. Or is he trying to hide his meaning behind a mass of meaningless words? If Mr. Manly is chairman of the committee on the color question again and uses the same policy and kind of sense that he used last year he will land in the ditch again. It was Mr. Manly, the Charlotte Observer, Col. Ransom and a few other Southern rascals and a few other Southern rascals who are responsible for the turning down of the proposition of the Peoples Party for all the supporters of Bryan to co-operate in electing an anti-monopoly Legislature. The masses of the Democratic party wanted such a co-operation in the State as there was on the electoral ticket. But the Ransom railroad machine defeated it. They would have refused to co-operate on the electoral ticket, had Mr. Bryan not specially requested it, and they knew that if they ignored Mr. Bryan's request that the people would run over them.

It was under Mr. Manly's management that ex-Governor Bunn, a man who had voted in Congress with Ransom to repeal the last silver law on the statute books was invited to introduce Mr. Bryan at Rocky Mount. This was an insult to Mr. Bryan and to every true silver man in the State. It is possible that Mr. Manly and the Charlotte Observer are pulling together to defeat Bryan?

But none of these things are surprising when it is remembered that Mr. Manly opposed the adoption of a resolution in his county convention which elected delegates to Raleigh to instruct the delegates to Chicago to vote for none but a silver candidate for President—yes, he opposed and made a speech against the adoption of a free silver resolution in his county convention in the spring of last year. And this is the man who was selected by the Democratic State machine to lead Bryan's campaign in this State.

Had it not been for the unparalleled patriotism of the Peoples Party, McKinley would have carried this State. The masses of the Democratic party can never expect any relief through that party as long as it is cursed with such leaders. They will use the party in the interest of the goldbugs and monopolists or they will ditch it.

## A CRAZY PROPOSITION.

Here is some more fruit from that Nashville Conference of middle-of-the-roaders. A committee which claims to speak for those in that conference has just held a meeting in a room in St. Louis and passed some resolutions. (See the resolutions in another column.) They declare in favor of a national convention to be held in April of next year, (1898) to nominate then, two years ahead, candidates for President and Vice-President to be voted for in 1900.

There are some good level headed men in that conference and we do not believe that they will endorse such a crazy proposition. The men behind this scheme are either bent on mischief or they are so stupid. This action inclines us to believe that they are wanting in sense, for







